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THE LAST
DYING SPEECH
AND
CONFESSION
OF
JOHN JUBBS.

Who was EXECUTED
at CHELMSFORD, on
Friday, the 16th day of
April, 1714.

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The Last Dying Speech and CONFESSION, of John Jubbs, who was Exe- cuted at Chelmsford on Fryday the 16th, of April 1714.

I John Jubbs the Younger Son of William Jubbs Gentleman Aged 35 Years was born in Spoon Row within two Miles of Wymondham in the County of Norfolk, I Served my time with Justice Blyth of the City of Norwich Merchant and Weaver, but was not so just to him as I ought to have been, I having Robb'd him of a small matter, but being taken in the fact my Father made him Satisfaction to the full value. After my time was out I Traded for my Self as a Master Weaver but I being not so Careful as I ought to have been, my Creditors brought a Statute of Bankrupt against me and took all from me, which forced me to leave my Country, Wife and Children, and come to London and got Work of Mr. Thomas Smith in Artillery-Lane near Bishop-gate-Street, and was obliged to work hard, my Friends refusing to do any thing for me and it being Pressing time I listed myself in the Queens Guards to prevent my being sent for a Soldier beyond Sea. Since which time I have lived a very loose life and have committed Several Robberies in several parts of this Kingdom within the Space of 4 or 5 Years, some of which was Mr. Gillians and some other in Norwich, for which I was taken and Committed to Norwich Goal and before my Tryal came on my Father Dyed and by his Will Desinherited both me and my Brother and Settled his Estate on my Children after my mother and my Wifes Decese when the Assizes came on I was tryed and Cast for my Life, but obtained her Majesties Reprieve and did expect to have pleaded a free pardon the next Assizes Following, but contrary to my expectation I understood it was to be a Transport Pardon to the West-Indies, for which Reason by the Assistance of Mr. Di——h I broke out of Prison but was retaken in London and carried to the Poultry Compter and from thence Removed to Norwich Goal and Mr. Tite the Goaler being a very careful Man I in a little time after with the Assistance of the said Mr. Di——h gave him the Slip again by which means the said Mr. Tite the Goaler lost the Ten pounds he paid for taken me and all the rest of his Charges, which perhaps might be Ten pounds more and I have nothing now left to make him Satisfaction for the same but my Poor Scragged Carcase, alas Poor Tite & Several other Robberies I have also Committed in London and other Places, and those that used to buy goods of me that I had Stolen were my Uncle W——t at M—— E—— Mrs. F——r in White Chapple and Mr. Di——h in Norwich, but in a little time I was weary of such a Course of Life, and did fully Retolve to leave it off, and make up matters with Mr. Tite, and get my Self into a free Pardon and live with my Wife and Family, and in order to effect this my resolution I left London and betook me to my Journey, but Unfortunately meeting with Mr. S——r who then lived with Mr. T——r at Wymondham Riding on Horseback and accompanying Sir John Woodhouse's Coach coming to London, he did inform Sir John and the Country that I did attempt to Robb Sir John if he had not prevented me, which I do solemnly protest as I shall answer it very shortly before God that I never made any such Attempt, nor never had so much as a Thought to do it, but when I came into my own Country I found that such a Report was spread all about, and that Justice Seabourn of Wymondham, had issued out his Warrant to

take me, and though I was not afraid to be I was unwilling taken till I had made an end with the Norwich Goaler, and pleaded to a free Pardon. Wherefore I was forced to leave my dear Cousin Shepherd's House, and fly to Norwich, where I kept my self incognito, and sent a Letter in my Mother's Name to Sir John, and desire him to certify whether he had any Reason to believe what Mr. S... had reported to be true. In answer to which Sir John was pleased to send to Mr. Brand, who formerly was his Butler, and told him that he saw me on the Road, but had no manner of Reason to believe that I had any design to rob him, and since I was return'd home it would be very proper for my Mother to put me into some way of getting an honest Livelihood, and he also ordered Mr. Brand to go to the Justices to have his Warrant called in: Upon which my Mother sent to me to return to her, but soon after (as I am credibly informed) this Mr. S...s Wife sent to her Brother in Law Justice G... to inform him, that being her Husband had raised a Report of me, that did not prove to be true, that therefore she did believe he went in danger of his Life: Upon which there was a Warrant issued out by Justice G... and several other Justices of the County of Norfolk, at their publick Meeting at the Kings Head in Wymondham to take me, which forced me to come back again to London, and soon after at my Mother's Request, I left London and went to Bristol, and wrought Journeywork at the Weaving Trade, but the Report being industriously and maliciously spread about, some Persons that knew me in the Town, who were my Friends, informed me that several People were coming to take me up there, for which Reason I left Bristol, and went to Shipton Mallet in Somersetshire and got Business in a Master Weaver's House, but in a short Time I was informed again that some Persons were in pursuit of me for Robbing Sir John Woodhouse's Coach, which made me fly again. And being I could not be at rest any where to get my Living honestly, was the Cause that I again took to my former ill course of Living. How Mr. S... can answer this another Day I cannot tell, but I think it may be said that next to my self, he is the cause of my coming to this untimely end, one might think that a Man of his Condition should know better than to do as he has done by me, however, I freely forgive him, and I pray God forgive him. But I have been worse used than this by my own Uncle Mr. W...t, he is my Mother's own Brother, and one who I think ought to have stood true to me, not only for the near Relation that is between us by Blood, but also because we have been Brethren in Iniquity, he having been equally concerned with me in several Robberies, it that Proverb be true, that the Receiver is as bad as the Thief, for he has bought Goods of me several times which he knew I stole, and has also several times hid up Goods for me which he knew I stole, and in particular he bought a Parcel of Camblers of me that I stole from the spread Eagle in Leadenhall Street, he knowing them to be stolen, also a Parcel of Silk he would have bought of me that he knew I stole, but that at that time he had not Money to pay for them, he offered me his Note but I refused it, and when I was in Trouble he hid up in his House a Parcel of Gold Rings, and some old Gold, which he knew I stole, and when he saw they were published in the News, his Wife took up a Brick in the Arbour, and hid them, and when I had them away I gave her one of the Stone Rings for her Pains, and yet for all this they have been very false to me and have proved to be my worst Enemies, because they pretended to be my Friends and promised to endeavour to make up Matters with Mr. Towne, the Prosecutor, who is his intimate Friend, in order to save my Life, but instead thereof he has

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set my Mother against me and has told several that have told me again, that he had rather I should be hanged than saved; upon which I writ a threatening Letter to him, and told him, that being as I understood it was, in his Power to save me, if he did not endeavour to do it, I would inform against him. and I also told several People the Truth as it is abovementioned, so that it began to get Wind, for several People told him of it at which he began to be very angry and much disturbed; but in a few Days he would Capitulate, and sent me word, that if I would write him a Letter in which I should renounce what I before asserted, that he would do all that lay in his Power for me, but if I would not do that he would do nothing at all for me nor Mr Towne should not neither. Being thus hard put to it, I did in Compliance to my Friends who wished me well, write him a Letter, in which I denied the Truth that I before asserted, and told him that what what I had said before was only the Effects of Passion and my hard usage, but I would for the future satisfy the World that he was an utter stranger to my way of Living. Then I expected again, according to his Promise, that he would have endeavoured to perswade Mr Towne the Prosecutor to an Agreement, but found again that he neglected it, wherefore I writ to him again and told him, that I had according to his desire, denied that he ever knew any thing of my way of Living, and had made such a Recantation as he required, but he knew as well as I, that I had spoke against the Truth on purpose to save his Reputation, and that therefore he ought in Conscience to do what he could for me in order to save my Life, but I found still that he was very cold upon the matter, and at last did say as he did before that he had rather I should be hanged than saved, the Reason as may be supposed is this, if I lived he might at one time or other be brought into trouble by my informing against him, but if I dye he thinks he is secure from coming into any trouble about it, though perhaps he is not so secure as he may think himself neither, there being others alive that know the Matter as well as I do, though I do not desire that any body should give him any trouble about it, neither do I declare any thing here against him out of Malice or Ill will, for God forbid that I should be in such a Temper in these my last Hours. but I do solemnly protest as I shall very shortly answer it before God, that I have done him nothing but Justice, for I have declared nothing but what is true, and I heartily wish and pray for him, and all others that have done me any wrong, for the same Mercy that I beg for my self, which is that God of his Infinite Mercy would make us all sensible of our Sins, and grant us true Repentance for the same. I bless God I am in Charity with him and all others that have any ways wronged me, I am sensible that the hand of God is in all this, and that they are only Instruments in his hand to punish me for my many and grievous Sins, and I must still acknowledge that God has punished me much less than my Iniquities deserve, for I acknowledge my self not only guilty of the Fact for which I dye, but of several others that have deserved death, and as I forgive the World, so do I desire that every body that I have wronged may forgive me, I pray God make them double and treble amends for what they have lost by me. I thank God I am now ready and willing to leave this World, in hopes of a better, for I do not nor dare I to say, that I have sinned beyond the Merits of Christ, for being he came to save the chief of Sinners; I have still some Hopes of receiving Mercy, which God grant for the sake of his dear Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.



